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Chief Justice

# Supreme Court of Wisconsin

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Sheila T. Reiff  
Clerk of Supreme Court

November 17, 2021

Chief Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler  
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley  
Justice Patience D. Roggensack  
Justice Rebecca G. Bradley  
Justice Rebecca F. Dallet  
Justice Brian K. Hagedorn  
Justice Jill J. Karofsky

Re: eFiling Progress Report

Dear Chief Justice and Justices:

I write to provide a progress report on appellate electronic filing. The project has made great strides forward since you heard the appellate eFiling petition in March.

- The changes to the Rules of Appellate Procedure were published. We provided trainings and articles to highlight the changes for the Bar.
- On July 1, eFiling became mandatory for attorneys filing in the Court of Appeals. In preparation, all pending cases were scanned and converted to electronic.
- Major software changes were made to the SCCA and WCCA case management systems, the appellate court eFiling website, and the judicial dashboards created for the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.
- The interim rules were updated to guide the pilot project in the Supreme Court.

Electronic filing is now fully operational in the Court of Appeals. Two new cases have been identified, approved and are underway for the Supreme Court pilot.

**Rules of Appellate Procedure:** The amendments from Rule Petition 20-07 were published by the Court of April 23, and incorporated into the Legislative Reference Bureau statute site on July 1. Members of the State Bar were alerted to the changes through Newsletters and press releases, and [an extensive article](#) was published in the June issue of Wisconsin Lawyer magazine.

**Mandatory eFiling in the Court of Appeals:** In preparation for mandatory eFiling in the appellate courts, the Clerk's office spent several months scanning all cases pending in the Court of Appeals and converting them to a fully electronic record. During the pilot, staff assisted attorneys and self-represented litigants by converting individual cases to electronic filing and enabling them to electronically view and file documents.

On the night of June 30, 2021, CCAP converted all pending cases to eFiling status which enabled the attorneys of record for each case to file electronically.

**Programming:** Major software changes were needed to implement mandatory eFiling. In addition to updating the appellate court eFiling website, CCAP updated the appellate (SCCA) application, the circuit court (CCAP) application and the judicial dashboards for the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

One notable change was that the Clerk of the Court of Appeals can now exchange documents with the circuit courts electronically rather than through the mail. Since 2016, the Clerks of Circuit Court began transmitting their Record on Appeal electronically, providing a significant savings in staff time and delivery costs. With the most recent software update, we now are able to exchange all documents electronically, from the notice of appeal to the remittitur. There will again be significant savings on both sides in shipping costs alone.

**Training and documentation:** Several members of the Appellate eFiling Committee recorded a one-hour CLE on Appellate eFiling from Start to Finish," demonstrating how to use the eFiling website and how the rule amendments apply. This seminar was presented live at the bar conference in June and will be available on demand throughout the year. A similar training was provided at the request of the State Public Defender for attorney staff and appointed counsel.

CCAP has provided technical training for judges and justices, court commissioners, staff attorneys, and staff members. Additional procedural training has been provided for attorneys and staff in the Court of Appeals and for staff in the Clerk's Office.

The Clerks of Circuit Court were given an overview of the new rules and procedures at their conference in June by Marcia Vandercook and myself. They were provided with civil and criminal appeal checklists along with an updated Guide that is now located on the web. My staff works with the Clerks weekly for a smooth transition with the upgrades. CCAP has provided step-by-step procedures for their CCAP case management system.

For members of the public, the appellate eFiling website has been completely updated and a new user-guide has been added. The "Guide to Appellate Procedures for the Self-Represented has been updated and posted online. The Clerk's Office and the eFile support call center are both available to help filers use the new system successfully.

**Progress Report**  
**Page 3**

**Supreme Court pilot project:** In addition to the amended Rules of Appellate Procedure, this Court approved an amendment to the Interim Rule for the pilot project, extending the project to the Supreme Court. We currently have two cases that are part of the voluntary eFiling pilot. Under the Interim Rule, parties will continue to file paper briefs in non-pilot proceedings until the Supreme Court adopts mandatory eFiling.

Three Justices have been testing an eReader for electronic document viewing and annotation. In the next few weeks, iPads will also be tested to determine which offers the best combination of online reading and annotation capabilities. A standard device will be selected, based off the testing results. Devices will be distributed to the Justices and Court of Appeals Judges. CCAP developed a system of device-to-device transfer, making sure that users were able to access their work and transition smoothly between laptops, eReaders, and other devices.

**Conclusion:** I am pleased to report that we reached a major milestone on July 1. Over the next few months, we hope to gradually increase the number of cases in the pilot project so we can ensure a smooth transition for the Supreme Court.

Please contact me at any time if you have questions.

Sincerely,

*Electronically signed by  
Sheila T. Reiff*

Clerk of the Supreme Court  
and Court of Appeals